

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 261

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to recognize Wilton Springs Hardware on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those historic Tennessee businesses that have a long-standing commitment to providing exceptional service to their customers; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable entity is Wilton Springs Hardware located in Newport, which recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, a commendable milestone for this family-owned and family-operated business; and

WHEREAS, Wilton Springs Hardware was founded by current owner Mitchell Webb's father, Gay Webb, who worked on building the hardware store in his spare time and on any days off while employed at American Enka at Lowland; and

WHEREAS, his hard work paid off, and he and his family—his wife, Floss, and his children, Mitchell and Susan—moved into a three-bedroom apartment in the same building as the hardware store, which opened its doors to customers in 1972; and

WHEREAS, the hardware store was initially also a community grocery store, providing local staples as well as supplying hardware needs and general supplies, and Floss Webb operated her beauty shop in the same building as the store, in a space that now serves as Mitchell Webb's office; and

WHEREAS, Wilton Springs Hardware sold gasoline in its early years, back when the price of a gallon was thirty cents; the store continued selling gas through the gas crisis in the 1970s and into 2008; and

WHEREAS, the store was half groceries and half hardware well into the mid-1990s, around the same time that Mitchell Webb began helping at the store after his mother's death in

1997, although at the time he was a teacher in Knoxville and had no intention of going into the hardware business; and

WHEREAS, Mitchell Webb and his wife, Sonya, and children, Nathan and Emily, moved back to the Newport area in 2000 and resided in the hardware store apartment while their home was being built; that apartment has since been turned into a space for equipment available to rent through Wilton Springs Hardware, including jackhammers, saws, excavators, skid steers, popcorn machines, sno-cone machines, and cotton candy makers; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Mitchell Webb doubled the size of the store and transitioned to selling hardware exclusively, in addition to the store's rental department; the store currently has nine employees and is known for its extensive inventory of plumbing and electrical supplies; and

WHEREAS, Wilton Springs Hardware remains true to Gay Webb's vision of integrity and quality service; and

WHEREAS, for five decades, Wilton Springs Hardware has been providing superior supplies and customer service, and it is fitting that the business be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we congratulate Wilton Springs Hardware on fifty years of operation, wishing the iconic Tennessee business much continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.